

NEWS

Geological Society of Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



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RETURN REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS



Dr. Alex D. & Mariya Lowe
2206 Caroline Lane
South St. Paul, MN 55075

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
VICE PRES.
SECRETARY
TREASURER
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Robert Handschin	2039 Edgerton Rd. St. Paul	774-1431
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Patricia Wigton	3349 Pierce St. N. E. Mpls.	781-0733
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Marlys Lowe	2206 Caroline Lane So. St. Paul	451-2822
Henry Gangl	2925 Sumpter Ave. N. Mpls.	545-3912

THE SEEKERS

With pick in hand -

We tramp about the river bed

We search along the trail

Selecting rocks and gneiss bits

In arduous assail.

We'd climb Pike's Peak if it were near

For agate, beryl, and gold

The whole world is our working sphere

Through heat and fog and cold.

We're dusty, rough and most intent

We search for meaning hold,

On solving mysteries we're bent,

The import of our world.

We note the titts, the slides, the streaks

But streaking do not go.

Stratigraphy, seismology,

Lithology, orogeny -

We are geologists, Yo, Ho!

Helen deLong Woodward

Newsletter : Ethel Shimek, Editor

Assistants: Toini Mackie, Ellen Biermeier, typing; Emilie and Robert Handschin, mailing; Barbara Gudmundson, Helen Woodward, contributors; James Erickson, artist.

A RIVER RAT'S DELIGHT: LAKE ITASCA TO NEW ORLEANS IN ONE SEASON

Barbara Gudmundson

This summer the Mississippi River was my flowing substrate and habitat: I journeyed for ten weeks from its source nearly to its mouth, 2350 miles downstream. For the first half, I paddled with the 1979 College of the Atlantic Mississippi River Canoe Expedition, also a credit course, "Life on the Mississippi". One final week was spent locating a host barge company and coursing down the rest of the way to New Orleans practically nonstop on a towboat which was pushing 7 tanker barges loaded with fuel oil.

The canoe expedition was first planned to cover the entire river; but it was not to be. Cold, wet and windy (head winds of course) weather in northern Minnesota in June slowed our progress, as well as unexpected and unwelcome illness. By the time we had paddled and portaged the 500 miles to the Twin Cities, we realized that our commitment to the entire length of the river would preclude sampling the richness of its natural and human history. So we shortened our mileage goals and broadened the interest and value of the trip for each of us. Also, 14 hour-long presentations per week were given by each one of us during the two months of courses; these, we found, could not be given during the evening when the mosquitoes were hunting human prey, so we decided to stop during the heat of the day even though it shortened our canoeing hours.

During the trip, I conducted a sampling program to research the planktonic algae species contributed by each major tributary, under a grant from the Freshwater Biological Research Foundation here. When our expedition disbanded in Hannibal, MO, I reluctantly gave up my hope to sample the entire river in one season. But I still wished to reach New Orleans if I could, without expense. After several abortive attempts, the president of a barge company in New Orleans invited me to be a guest on the M. S. Elizabeth Lane. I was taken to it by a refueling boat just below the Alton lock, Lock No. 26 late one night, went underneath the Eads Bridge and past St. Louis' Gateway Arch the following morning. Four days later, I was in New Orleans. My dream came true too: I found ways to complete my sampling. What a great adventure!

NOTE: A U of M sampler lecture will be given on this expedition. See P 6

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Bertha Ames
1969 Fairmont Av.
St. Paul 55105

Valerie Liston
2198 Eleanor Av.
St. Paul 55116

Philip & Peggy Lamb
4330 Arden View Ct.
Arden Hills 55112

Anne T. Davis
960 Goodrich Av. # 106
St. Paul 55105

RENEWAL

Gertrude J Wattson
1608 Bohland Av.
St. Paul 55116

ADDRESS CHANGES

Bob & Joan Leacock
Patrick Leacock
P.O. Box 2414
Prescott, Ariz. 86302

Gail Easthouse
812 Washington Av. 8, E
Minneapolis 55414

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE AT VIKING VILLAGE

THE ANNUAL MEETING will take place at Viking Village, 27th & E. Lake St., Minneapolis, at 7:00 p.m. on September 24. Those who wish to join other members for dinner should plan to come around 5:30 so that we may proceed promptly.

The main business will be election of Board Members. The following have been nominated:

For first term: Virginia Baker, Jay Hutchinson and Elaine Fink. Retiring from the Board are Allen Lundgren, Myrtle Fore and Mark Jeffries.

Pat Wigton and Henry Gangle are running for a second term.

Nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting.

A film program will complete the evening.

FIELD TRIPS



FOUR DOWN AND ONE TO GO.

First, was Fresh Water Biological Institute near Navarre, Lake Minnetonka.

Second, was to study fossils at the St. Paul Brick Yards (now a park). For the first time we were rained out as a heavy downpour covered the area for a couple of hours. The leader rescheduled the trip for an evening. Those who attended enjoyed it and collected a variety of ordovician fossils. Leader, Mike Ryan,

Third, was a two-day trip by bus to Duluth and the North Shore of Lake Superior. Dr. Charles Matsch showed us some of the quaternary geology of the Duluth area. Both days we had fine weather and good visibility. We stayed over night at a dorm on the UMD campus. We saw effects of glaciation on lava flows, observed the Thomson slates at a dam on the St. Louis River, visited a marina on the Lake, and saw dunes whose sand by currents was deposited in the Lake.

Fourth, was a one-day caravan to the Duluth area to study some of the Precambrian geology of east central Minnesota. We stopped at a dam on the St. Louis River near Carlton, where we lunched. At that point we saw Thomson slates, granitic intrusions and quartz veins. Then we visited a cliff located in a wild and rocky area where some of us almost got lost. Last stop was at Fond du Lac where that formation is well exposed. We had another fine day - quite cool (70°) while Minneapolis sweltered in 90° heat. The leader was Dr. Glen Morey Minnesota Geological Survey.

WEBERS WILL LEAD EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

Dr. Gerald Webers, last year's lecturer on Plate Tectonics and Earth History, will lead a three month expedition in Antarctica starting in November. He has been a member of three previous expeditions to the south polar continent, the first in the early sixties as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

The \$171,000 grant from the National Science Foundation is the largest ever awarded a small college (Macalester) for such a project. About 50 other people, including 20 geologists and students, plus representatives of the Navy and the U. S. Geological Survey will accompany Webers on the trip. West Germany, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Russia are also sending observers. Dr. Charles Matsch, U.M.D., and Richard Ojakangas will also be along. G.S.M. members will recall these latter as field trip leaders in northern Minnesota field trips.

Webers first got interested in geology when collecting fossils as a child. And it is with the same kind of enthusiasm that he is tackling the expedition.

Earlier trips to the Ellsworths (mountains) have resulted in the general understanding of the structures, stratigraphy and geomorphology of these mountains. They are 220 miles long and the highest in Antarctica, reaching 17,000 feet. They are more rugged than the Rockies in most places and made up of marble, shale and quartzite peaks.

CONTINUED PAGE 8

GEOLOGY COURSES AVAILABLE IN EVENING SCHOOL

For those wishing to enlarge their knowledge of the natural world and geology, the University Evening School is offering a number of courses this year.

An all new, non-credit Overview of Modern Geology is offered on Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:40, from October 4 through November 8, and a possible Saturday field trip. No. ICO 261

Also, a 4-credit course in Physical Geology in the fall and History Geology in the spring. In addition, there are several non-credit courses dealing with the natural world.

For details and the Extension Bulletin, call 373-3926. Registration is at 180 Westbrook Hall, 77 Pleasant St. S.E. or at McPhail Center, 12th St. & LaSalle in Minneapolis. Persons 62 and over may audit all courses free and get credit for a reduced fee.

Three of the "Sampler" lectures (\$1.00 each) are of special interest to geologists:

1. Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 p.m. - The Great Lake that Vanished: Lake Agassiz, by Julie Stein, Ancient Studies instructor.
2. Tuesday, October 16, 7:30 p.m. - The Compleat Mississippi - from Itasca to the Gulf, with Canoe and Camera - by Barbara Gudmundson, river ecologist and Vice President of Geological Society of Minnesota.
3. Thursday, November 15, 7:30 p.m. - The Gray Whale and Marine Life of Baja, California, by Bernie Fashingbauer, Science Museum of Minnesota.

I DUG UP THESE TRILOBITES
AND BRACHIOPODS IN THIS
SACK ON THE BANKS
OF THE MISSISSIPPI ...
THEY ARE 450 MILLION
YEARS OLD!

HEAVENS! IF THEY ARE THAT
OLD I'D BETTER PUT THEM
IN THE REFRIGERATOR RIGHT
NOW BEFORE
THEY SPOIL!



FINAL FIELD TRIP

For the final field trip, we are to meet at the St. Paul Public Library at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 22, in the second floor Audio Visual Auditorium. We shall see a slide presentation featuring the quarries from which the various stones in the buildings came.

After the slides we will tour on foot the immediate vicinity of the library and observe the stones in the building. A bus tour of the lower town and the capitol area will complete the trip. There will be a nominal fee. Leader - Sr. Joan Kain, author of Rocky Roots.

FROM THE EXHIBIT COMMITTEE

Alex Lowe, Chairman

We wish to thank all the following members of this Society for their assistance with our exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair:

Artist - Alan Hage
Exhibit Set-up - Henry Gangl
Telephone - Ethel Shimek and Bob Handschin

Irene Carlson
Vern & Vivian Bloomquist
Bernadine Riske
Alice Chapin
Barbara & Alan Lundgren
Charles Howard
Grace Benz
Pat Brennen
Ray Gilles
Elaine Fink
Dale & Wilma Johnson
Liz Ooten
Alan Hage
Rod & Peggy Nerdahl
Pearl Downey

Earl & Myrtle Fore
Ethel Shimek
Marjorie McGladrey
Barbara Gudmundson
Fred Bradford
Olga Hallberg
Janet Williams
Don & Betty Wheeler
Bob Handschin
Eleanor Hoover
Dwight Robinson
Helen Woodward
Maryls Lowe
Ernie & Donna Stalock
J. Eric Algren

Sr. Joan Kain & Sr. Myra Gannon

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. George A. Thiel, retired geology professor at U. of M. and honorary G.S.M. member died September 7.

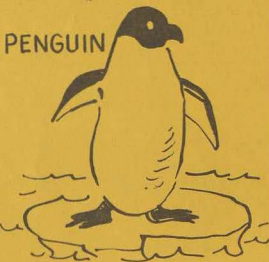
He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Marshall Battig, of Fredrick, Wis. and two grandchildren. Dr. Thiel taught geology at the U. from 1920 until June of 1961, having been chairman of the Department since 1944.

ANTARCTIC CONTINUED'''

The geologists are interested in the rock units and how these fit into the geology of the continent, and how the continent fits into the rest of the world. Antarctica is sort of the last piece in the big world puzzle, according to Webers. Some will be studying the ice level in the area, some radioactivity, and two will be looking for meteorites.

But the main focus will be the rocks, which in the Ellsworths go back 800 million years and contain fossils from what were once warm, tropical seas. They will also look for larger fossils of reptiles and other land animals.

Ed. Note: Most of the above material appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Ye Editor welcomes criticisms and suggestions about the Newsletter. Further, we would like you to contribute your talents in writing articles, art work, typing, or whatever.



Geological Society of Minnesota

1979 - 1980 PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

133 Physics Building, University of Minnesota,
Monday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

P

[illegible]

R

October 8 Dr. E. Calvin Alexander
Dept. of Geology & Geophysics, U. of M.
October 22 will give four lectures on:

November 12 MARINER, VIKING AND VOYAGER VIEW THE PLANETS

November 26

O

December 3 Dr. George Rapp, Jr.
Dean of College of Letters and Science
University of Minnesota, Duluth
will present his lectures on:

G

GEOLOGICAL ORIGINS OF THE ATLANTIS LEGEND

January	14	<u>Dr. H. O. Pfannkuch</u>
		Dept. of Geology and Geophysics, U. of M.
January	28	will give four lectures on:

R

February 11 FROM ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY TO ECO-GEOLOGY

February 25 or HOW TO SURVIVE ON A FINITE EARTH
Suggested supplemental paperback readings:
"Toward a Steady State Economy",
Herman E. Daly, ed. W. H. Freeman & Co., 1977
"Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity",
William Ophuls. W. H. Freeman & Co., 1977

A

March 10 Dr. Peter Hudleston
Dept. of Geology & Geophysics, U. of M.
March 24 will give three lectures on:

M

April 14 GEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES, OLD AND MODERN

April 28 SPRING BANQUET -- 6:00 P.M.
(location to be announced)